

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data processing apparatus comprising:

detection means for detecting whether an illegal  
process has been performed for input digital contents  
5 on the basis of a result obtained by performing a  
predetermined operation for at least a part of said  
digital contents; and

processing means for, when said detection means  
detects that the illegal process has been performed,  
10 performing a predetermined process for said digital  
contents.

2. A data processing apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein said processing means performs a filtering  
15 process.

3. A data processing apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein said processing means reduces a resolution  
of said digital contents.

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4. A data processing apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein said processing means encrypts said digital  
contents.

- 25 5. A data processing apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein said processing means adds a bit string to  
said digital contents.

6. A data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing means adds visible or invisible information to said digital contents.

5           7. A data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing means stores information concerning said digital contents.

10           8. A data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing means halts the output of said digital contents.

15           9. A data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing means corrects said digital contents and outputs the corrected digital contents.

20           10. A data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said digital contents are image data, and said control means corrects colors of said image data.

25           11. A data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, to detect an illegal activity, said detection means obtains a hash value by using at least one part of said digital contents.

12. A data processing method comprising:

detection step for detecting whether an illegal process has been performed for input digital contents on the basis of a result obtained by performing a predetermined operation for at least a part of the digital contents; and

a processing step of, when it is detected at said detection step that the illegal process has been performed, performing a predetermined process for said digital contents.

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13. A storage medium on which a computer-readable program is stored, said program comprising:

a detection step of detecting whether an illegal process has been performed for input digital contents on the basis of result obtained by performing a predetermined operation for at least a part of said digital contents; and

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a processing step of, when it is detected at said detection step that the illegal process has been performed, performing a predetermined process for said digital contents.

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14. A data processing apparatus comprising:

operation means for performing a predetermined calculation using data values that constitute input digital contents and that are included in a first subset;

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extraction means for extracting information that is embedded as a digital watermark in a second sub-set composed of said data values that constitute said digital contents; and

5 comparison means for comparing the value obtained through said predetermined calculation with said information that is extracted.

15 15. A data processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said operation means calculates hash values for said data values that are included in said first sub-set.

15 16. A data processing method comprising:  
an operation step of performing a predetermined calculation using data values that constitute input digital contents and that are included in a first sub-set;

20 an extraction step of extracting information that is embedded as a digital watermark in a second sub-set composed of said data values that constitute said digital contents; and

a comparison step of comparing the value obtained through said predetermined calculation with said  
25 information that is extracted.

17. A storage medium on which a computer-readable

program is stored, said program comprising:

an operation step of performing a predetermined calculation using data values that constitute input digital contents and that are included in a first sub-set;  
5 set;

an extraction step of extracting information that is embedded as a digital watermark in a second sub-set composed of said data values that constitute said digital contents; and

10 a comparison step of comparing the value obtained through said predetermined calculation with said information that is extracted.

18. A data processing apparatus comprising:

15 operation means for performing a predetermined calculation using data values that constitute input digital contents and that are included in a first sub-set; and

embedding means for embedding a result obtained by  
20 said predetermined calculation in a second sub-set composed of said data values that constitute said digital contents.

19. A data processing apparatus according to  
25 claim 18, wherein said operation means calculates hash values for said data values that are included in said first sub-set.

20. A data processing method comprising:

an operation step of performing a predetermined calculation using data values that constitute input digital contents and that are included in a first sub-set; and

an embedding step of embedding a result obtained by said predetermined calculation in a second sub-set. composed of said data values that constitute said digital contents.

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21. A storage medium on which a computer-readable program is stored, said program comprising:

an operation step of performing a predetermined calculation using data values that constitute input digital contents and that are included in a first sub-set; and

an embedding step of embedding a result obtained by said predetermined calculation in a second sub-set composed of said data values that constitute said digital contents.

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22. A data processing apparatus comprising:

embedding means for embedding, in digital contents, a digital watermark that includes a time whereat said digital contents were prepared; and

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file preparation means for preparing a file that accompanies said digital contents and for writing in

said file a file update time.

23. A data processing method comprising:  
an embedding step of embedding, in digital  
5 contents, a digital watermark that includes a time  
whereat said digital contents were prepared; and  
a file preparation step of preparing a file that  
accompanies said digital contents and of writing in  
said file a file update time.

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24. A storage medium on which a computer-readable  
program is stored, said program comprising:  
an embedding step of embedding, in digital  
contents, a digital watermark that includes a time  
15 whereat said digital contents were prepared; and  
a file preparation step of preparing a file that  
accompanies said digital contents and of writing in  
said file a file update time.

20 25. A data processing apparatus comprising:  
extraction means for extracting a digital contents  
preparation time, from digital contents in which  
information indicating said digital contents  
preparation time is embedded as a digital watermark,  
25 and a digital contents update time, from a file in  
which said digital contents update time is written; and  
comparison means for comparing said preparation

time with said update time.

26. A data processing method comprising:

an extraction step of extracting a digital  
5 contents preparation time, from digital contents in  
which information indicating said digital contents  
preparation time is embedded as a digital watermark, .  
and a digital contents update time, from a file in  
which said digital contents update time is written; and  
10 a comparison step of comparing said preparation  
time with said update time.

27. A storage medium on which a computer-readable  
program is stored, said program comprising:

15 an extraction step of extracting a digital  
contents preparation time, from digital contents in  
which information indicating said digital contents  
preparation time is embedded as a digital watermark,  
and a digital contents update time, from a file in  
20 which said digital contents update time is written; and  
a comparison step of comparing said preparation  
time with said update time.